THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus comprising:

a landmark amount input unit to input a~~ ~~ at least one landmark amount selected from a plurality of coordinate values to identify a shape of a face image or a plurality of grey-level values of texture of a face image, as the landmark amount of an object a face image included in an input image;

an image pickup condition input unit to input inclination of a face image in a depth direction as an image pickup condition of capturing said input image; and

an image space formation unit to form an image space by applying a statistical method on a plurality of said landmark amounts input through said landmark amount input unit and a plurality of image pickup conditions input through said image pickup condition input unit with respect to a plurality of object face images.

Claims 2 & 3 (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said image pickup condition input through said image pickup condition input unit further includes brightness of illumination during image capturing.

Claim 5 (Cancelled)

6. (Withdrawn) An image processing apparatus comprising:

a storage unit to store an image space generated according to a landmark amount of an object image included in an image and an image pickup condition of shooting said image,

a parameter input unit to input a parameter at said image space, and

an image synthesis unit to synthesize an image according to the parameter input through said parameter input unit.

7. (Withdrawn) The image processing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said parameter input unit includes a parameter optimization unit to automatically extract a parameter whose difference between an input image and a synthesized image obtained by moving the parameter in said image space becomes smallest.

8. (Withdrawn) The image processing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said parameter input unit includes a projection unit to project said landmark amount input through said landmark amount input unit and said image pickup condition input through said image pickup condition input unit onto said image space to obtain a parameter.

9. (Withdrawn) An image processing apparatus comprising:

a first storage unit to store an image space generated according to a landmark amount of an object image included in an image and an image pickup condition of shooting said image,

a parameter optimization unit to automatically extract a first parameter whose difference between a first object image included in. said input image and a synthesized image obtained by moving a parameter in said image space becomes smallest,

a second storage unit to store a plurality of second object images respectively in correspondence with a second parameter in said image space, and

a select unit to compare said first parameter with said second parameter to select a desired object image out of said plurality of second object images.

10. (Currently Amended) An image processing method comprising the steps of:

inputting a at least one landmark amount selected from a plurality of coordinate values to identify a shape of a face image or a plurality of grey-level values of texture of a face image, as the landmark amount of an object a face image included in an input image;

inputting inclination of a face image in a depth direction as an image pickup condition of capturing said input image; and

forming an image space by applying a statistical method on a plurality of said landmark amounts and a plurality of said image pickup conditions with respect to a plurality of object face images.

11. (Currently Amended) A recording medium recorded with an image processing program for a computer to execute the steps of:

inputting a at least one landmark amount selected from a plurality of coordinate values to identify a shape of a face image or a plurality of grey-level values of texture of a face image, as the landmark amount of an object a face image included in an input image;

inputting <u>inclination of a face image in a depth direction as</u> an image pickup condition of capturing said input image; and

forming an image space by applying a statistical method on a plurality of said landmark amounts and a plurality of said image pickup conditions with respect to a plurality of ~~object~~ <u>face</u> images.

12. (New) The image processing method according to claim 10, wherein said image pickup condition further includes brightness of illumination during image capturing.

13. (New) The recording medium recorded with an image processing program according to claim 11, wherein said image pickup condition further includes brightness of illumination during image capturing.